



December 27, 2017

Christopher LaMere
Adams County Community and Economic Development
4430 South Adams County Parkway, Suite W2000A
Brighton, CO 80601

RE: ConocoPhillips Venturers 41-4H, USR2017--00006
TCHD Case No. 4722

Dear Mr. LaMere,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Use by Special Review Permit for the ConocoPhillips Venturers 41-4H project consisting of one horizontal well on one well pad for oil and gas production located at approximately northwest of E. 45th and Imboden Road. Tri-County Health Department (TCHD) staff has reviewed the application for compliance with applicable environmental and public health regulations and principles of healthy community design. After reviewing the application, TCHD has the following comments.

Domestic Wastewater Management

Proper wastewater management promotes effective and responsible water use, protects potable water from contaminants, and provides appropriate collection, treatment, and disposal of waste that protects public health and the environment. TCHD, as the local public health agency, plays a role in reviewing whether a new proposed land use has addressed the domestic water and wastewater needs and is the regulating agency for On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS). Because of the nature of oil and gas operations and the typical location of this land use, not in close proximity to existing wastewater facilities, many of the oil and gas sites utilize OWTS.

TCHD permits the use of OWTS including septic tanks and vault systems. If the site utilizes an OWTS or vault system for domestic wastewater, the applicant will need to obtain a Use Permit from TCHD. Please contact Mike Weakley at 720-200-1593 or mweakley@tchd.org.

Baseline Water Quality Testing

Water quality is unregulated in domestic and irrigation wells in Colorado and monitored in a limited manner for commercial wells. This means water quality testing is typically not required, and the water quality is often unknown. In general, TCHD supports baseline water quality testing to establish the existing water quality relative to the water well's permitted use and to identify water quality issues that should be known and addressed by the well's owner. Baseline water quality testing can also provide an understanding of pre-existing conditions should the water quality change in the future.

Baseline and subsequent water quality testing data can support a determination of whether water treatment may be needed to protect the health of well water users and the health of the environment.

Specific Recommendations for Water Wells within ½ mile:

TCHD believes that any owner of a well within one-half mile of the proposed oil and gas operation should have the opportunity to obtain a baseline water quality test prior to the change in land use. One-half mile is the area of influence established by the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission's Final Rule 609 Statewide Groundwater Baseline Sampling and Monitoring.

TCHD recommends the following for well permits and water rights holders located within one-half mile of the proposed oil and gas well as they are likely used or will be used for drinking water for humans or animals.

- That the County or applicant notify owners of the wells or groundwater rights owners of the proposed application;
- That the County refer well owners who want to test their wells to TCHD for guidance on recommended testing parameters, procedures for selection of qualified sampling professionals and laboratories, and sharing of data; and
- That the County refers well owners desiring guidance for wellhead protection to TCHD.

Water Supply for Use by Workers

Providing clean and safe water for use by workers for ware washing, food preparation, hand washing, and showering is important. The majority of foodborne illnesses can be traced to improper food handling procedures in home, retail, or office kitchens. Improper transport, storage, cross-connections, and backflow also pose dangers to potable water quality.

TCHD will need to review information regarding the source of water for workers as well as any proposed potable water system used by workers. If the drinking water is to be hauled, a public water system identification number for the water hauler must be provided to TCHD.

Potential Temporary Water Storage

Non-potable water is often used onsite at oil and gas sites. The storage tank should be marked with a sign indicating the water is non-potable. In addition, these very large water storage tanks have the potential to collapse if not properly constructed with appropriate quality controls. A collapse can result in significant damage to the environment, property, and individuals that may be nearby. TCHD recommends the applicant employ proper quality control techniques when constructing the water storage tank.

Above Ground Storage Tanks

Fuel is often stored onsite at oil and gas sites. All storage tanks must have a secondary containment area, a routine monitoring system to check for leaks, and best management practices implemented in order to prevent the release of contaminants into the soil and water supplies. TCHD commends the applicant for including a secondary containment in their plans.

Emergency Response Plan/Spill Reporting

One of the most common environmental releases associated with oil and gas drilling operations is the inadvertent surface spill of chemicals, produced water, or flowback water. No Emergency Response Plan was available for review with the referral materials. The Emergency Response Plan should include response and notification procedures for responding to and effective strategies for minimizing the risk of hydrocarbon spills, hazardous chemical spills, and produced water spills. If a spill or incident were to occur, the emergency response to spills should be indicated in the Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures Plan that is kept onsite.

Specific information related directly to a potential leak or spill from the domestic wastewater system should also be addressed. In the event there is a domestic wastewater spill or leak, TCHD should be contacted immediately.

Air Quality Permitting

Air pollutant emissions including flares are regulated by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Vapor recovery equipment should be used to control the release of vapors into the environment. The use of green completion technology is strongly encouraged at every site. If the site is to use multiple flares and combustors, the oil and gas industry permits should include a regulatory analysis determining the applicability of state and federal air quality permitting requirements and air pollution control regulations for the proposed emissions source(s). More information as well as all forms can be found online at <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/all-permits>.

Dust Control and Mitigation

TCHD commends the applicant for including dust mitigation measures in their management plan. TCHD encourages the applicant to follow best management practices for erosion control on the site, specifically to minimize excessive dust from land disturbance. This will help minimize the environmental impact resulting from any construction and land disturbance on the site. TCHD encourages any reclamation, including site pad minimization, and reseeding activities to occur as early as possible. This prevents erosion, helps control excessive weeds, and can provide some benefit to air quality.

Traffic Safety

Oil and gas production and monitoring wells involve significant truck traffic to and from a site during the construction and drilling process. TCHD commends the applicant for including traffic control in their best management practices and TCHD encourages the County to designate a primary traffic route for all construction traffic and deliveries. If the

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trucks servicing the site will be traveling on a local school bus route, we encourage the County to work with the applicant to minimize traffic during hours when school buses are in operation.

Please feel free to contact me at 720-200-1585 or aheinrich@tchd.org if you have any questions on TCHD's comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Annemarie Heinrich".

Annemarie Heinrich, MPH/MURP
Land Use and Built Environment Specialist

cc: Sheila Lynch, Steve Chevalier, TCHD